



Summary of our three key points:

1. Climate Impacts

- a. Scientists are clearly warning us of the dangerous effects of climate change on the weather in Alberta, which impacts our quality of life and health
- b. An updated Coal Policy must include climate impacts as its #1 priority

2. Water Management

- a. There is already scientific evidence, and resulting fines, of how open pit coal mines have polluted downstream watersheds and ecosystems in British Columbia
- b. Water scarcity is already being experienced in southern Alberta and over-allocation of this most precious resource must not be allowed to occur

3. Spiritual Place

- a. Traditional indigenous cultures in Alberta have emphasized the intrinsic and aesthetic value of the eastern slopes, aside from any proposed economic value
- b. It is scientifically proven that time spent amongst the untouched beauty of mountains, forests, lakes and rivers provides both physical and mental health benefits to all visitors

Conclusions:

1. Short term: Benefits proposed of any new open pit coal mines do not outweigh the associated costs/risks e.g. Joint Review Panel ruling for the Benga Mining / Grassy Mountain Project
2. Long term: Stewardship of the eastern slopes for seven future generations, linked to indigenous principles, must be our guiding principle.

Recommendations:

1. The Committee report should include input from:
 - a. a climatologist and
 - b. a water impact specialist
2. A moratorium on all coal mine exploration and development activities should be implemented immediately.